Vacant Posts Reserved for SC and ST

1500. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of posts reserved for SCs and STs are lying vacant in almost all the Departments of the Central Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b) The backlog of reservations for SCs and STs as on 31.3.1990 reported by Ministries/Departments of the Central Government is as follows:

Group A . . .	81
Group B . . .	1444
Group C . . .	17053
Group D . . .	11850
TOTAL . . .	31928

Afforestation of denuded Forests in Nilgiris and Palians in Tamil Nadu

1501. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATARAMAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a proposal from the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu regarding afforestation of denued forest areas in the Nilgiris and Palians;

(b) if so, whether Government have given clearance to this proposal; and

(c) if not, by when it is likely to be given?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) to (c) The State Government of Tamil Nadu had sent the following project proposals to the National Wastelands Development Board:—

(1) Pilot Project for Restoration of Forest Cover in the Western Ghats including Nilgiris, Anamalais and Palani Hills.

(2) Project for Restoration of Forest Cover in the Nilgiris, Anamalais, Palani and Southern Part of Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu.

The project mentioned at Serial No. (1) above was considered by the National Wastelands Development Board and a sum of Rs. 100.00 lakhs was released for implementing the project in 1989-90.

The project mentioned at Serial No. (2) above was required to be revised. The revised version of the project has been received recently from the State Government. The project has been considered and it has been decided to pose the project for external funding after getting the requisite clearances required in such cases.

Absorption of Forest Graduates by Forest Department

1502. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that forest graduates from some of the major agriculture universities are not getting jobs as envisaged by the National Commission on Agriculture; and

(b) if so, what are the steps Government propose to take to absorb these graduates by the Forest Departments?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No specific jobs have been reserved for graduates. Forestry has been included as one of the optional subjects for recruitment to Indian Forest Service. State Governments have been asked to include Forestry as a subject in Recruitment Examinations in the State Forest Services and Rangers Cadres.